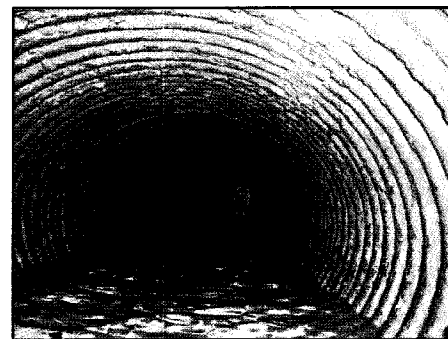


Eureka Dam, Teton County, Montana

PROJECT OVERVIEW

- 5,500 acre-foot reservoir built in 1936
- Owned by Teton Cooperative Canal Company
- Managed for irrigation on 6100 acres
- Numerous public recreational opportunities
- Grant sponsored by Teton Conservation District due to agriculture and economic importance to the area
- Dam contains a 60+ year old metal pipe, at end of design life
- Excessive seepage through dam foundation
- In 2009, engineer hired to conduct investigation and develop rehabilitation plan.
- Engineer recommended two phase approach
 - Phase I (2011) – replace outlet
 - Phase II (2013) – seepage control and embankment stabilization
- Phase I project cost = **\$274,800**
 - Teton Coop Canal Co: **\$174,800**
 - RRGL grant **\$100,000**

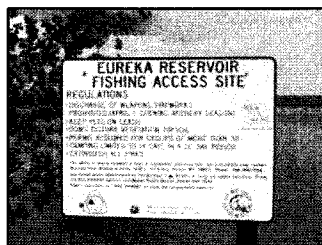


Issues

- This year, project applications did not receive ranking points for the preservation of existing infrastructure. In other words, if a proposed project does not provide *new* renewable resource benefits that do not currently exist, the project did not receive associated points in the ranking process. In past years, dams have received special consideration and were given points for the preservation of existing infrastructure.
- Regulatory agency (DNRC) may be forced to implement a reservoir level restriction, due to safety concerns with outlet. *The impacts of a reservoir level restriction were not considered in grant ranking.*
- The reservoir has significant public benefits, thus public assistance for funding is needed and appropriate

Overview of Benefits/Renewable Resources

- Intense use by public: from May to Oct 2010, **8631** public visits to site were recorded by Fish Wildlife and Parks.
- Maintains **6100** acres of irrigated acreage; provides late season irrigation return flow, supports local families and the community of Choteau
- Widespread public support for the project: Over **60** letters of support included in grant application



Consequences of Delaying Phase I Outlet Replacement

- Threat to city of Choteau in the event of an embankment failure
- Strong regulatory action is pending – reservoir level restriction and resulting impact to agriculture, fishing and recreation
- Delays Phase II, seepage control and stabilization

Renewable Resource Grant and Loan Requirements and Eureka Dam

Renewable Resource Project Requirements:

- Must enhance the common well-being of Montanans through the conservation, management, development, or preservation of a targeted renewable resource
- Must result in resource and citizen benefits
- Must be financially feasible
- Must have no significant environmental impacts
- Have an adequate project management plan
- Must be technically feasible

Eureka Dam Project:

- ✓ Ensures the continued performance of the Eureka Reservoir for the next 100 years, resulting in long term preservation of agriculture, fish and wildlife.
- ✓ 10,000 public visits to reservoir each year; over 60 letters of public support in grant application from small community of Choteau
- ✓ Feasibility analysis completed to identify highest priority and most economical approach; Rehabilitation broken into two phases. Financed with combination of RRGL grant, water user loan and water user resources.
- ✓ Only minor impacts during construction – will be conducted in fall at low reservoir pool
- ✓ Teton Conservation District, Canal Company and TD & H Engineering will work cooperatively to assure project is completed on time and within budget.
- ✓ Phase I will replace the outlet pipe according to standard engineering practice. Additional seepage data will be collected, after which Phase II will be initiated (embankment stabilization). The State Dam Safety Program (DNRC) has provided review and is supportive of this approach.

